



## Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

### *Legislative Update*

#### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE**

#### **DOD SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005, AS OF 0600**

#### **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)**

##### **Authorities**

- USACE conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities:
  - The Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act (P.L. 84-99).
  - The Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288).

##### **Command and Control**

- Commander, USACE is Lieutenant General Strock in Washington, D.C.
- USACE Task Force Commander is Major General Don Riley in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Commander is Brigadier General Crear in Vicksburg, Mississippi. His area of operations covers the States of Louisiana and Mississippi.
- South Atlantic Division Commander is Brigadier General Walsh in Atlanta, Georgia. His area of operations covers the States of Alabama and Florida.

##### **Operational Highlights**

- 1,003 USACE personnel are on the ground or aboard ships supporting relief operations.
  - This number includes 46 soldiers from the 249<sup>th</sup> Prime Power Battalion.
- MVD has formed Task Force Unwater to synergize the efficiencies of the multiple district resources engaged.
  - Task Force Unwater held meeting in Baton Rouge with Navy Facilities Command, USACE Contracting and Prime Contractors: KBR and Shaw Group
  - Environment Protection Agency has issued a permit waiver for discharge of flood waters. USACE General Council working to determine what "reasonable precautions" are acceptable to keep progress accelerating.
    - Pump Station 6 has two pumps operating. Total capacity is 2,000 cfs into the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal.
    - Pump Station 19 currently pumping 1,300 cfs. Pending arrival of generator will activate another pump with an additional 1,000 cfs.
    - Pump Station 8 is running at full capacity 837 cfs.
  - Working to close deliberate breach at Bohemia now that gravity draining out of the flooded areas has ceased.
  - No breaches are required at Venice area. Unit is attempting to recon pumping station status in Plaquemines Parish through locals/station workers.
  - Actions for next 24 hours: Pumping operations will continue and water levels will continue to drop within city. Expect contractor to install first 10 depth gages that will be used to track progress.

9/7/2005



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- Water and Ice: 27,540,000 liter of water and 83,440,000 lbs of ice delivered to date.
  - Water and ice deliveries were impacted by transportation and production issues over Labor Day weekend.
  - Expect contractors and vendors to catch up by Thursday.
- Debris:
  - Emergency clearing of US 90 in Louisiana continues. Clearing should be completed by late this week.
  - In MS, discussing alternative with local and county officials. Contractor staging areas have been approved. Completing certification of trucks by end of week.
- Roofing:
  - Working with volunteers to begin obtaining "Rights of Entry" to begin temporary roofing mission.
  - Rolled plastic sheeting was delivered last night and expect roofing mission to begin in earnest today.
- Power: 46 Prime Power soldiers working in the area.
  - Last 24 hours: Continued working assessments and generator installs in Mississippi and Louisiana. Primary effort in LA is getting power to pumping stations.
    - Completed Pump Station 6 and beginning work on Pump Station 7.
    - Have completed 261 assessments and 77 generator installs to date.
  - Next 24 hours: Continue to work overhead power line to Pump Station 7.
- Navigation:
  - Mississippi River is open to shallow draft traffic and deep draft vessels less than 39' (daylight only). Contractor working to remove obstacles in Southwest Pass.
  - Harvey Lock, Algiers Canal and Lock are operating.
  - Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) is not operational due to bridge closures. Working to repair. The IHNC lock is working.
- Housing:
  - Continuing working with FEMA's Housing Area Command on the requirements to temporarily house 500,000 through a combination of travel trailers, mobile homes, hotels, and cruise ships.
  - Alabama housing team is working plans to build a 1,200 person requirement for Dauphin Island.